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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NDOR Announces Project Prioritization Regional Meetings**

*NDOR's Innovation Task Force applauds agency for increased outreach efforts*

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) has scheduled eight regional meetings to continue discussions on its expanded project prioritization process for capital improvement projects. These capital improvement projects are those projects that most impact our economy and allow us to grow Nebraska. Examples include the addition of new lanes, building new interchanges or viaducts, and improvements to the expressway system or federally designated high priority corridors.

The regional meetings are a follow up to those held in January where NDOR staff presented information on expanding the agency's project prioritization process to better consider economic impacts and include more stakeholder input. At the upcoming regional meetings, NDOR staff will share preliminary results of the project prioritization process and gather feedback through facilitated group discussions.

"So far, over 1,000 people have been engaged in this initiative to expand the prioritization process for capital improvement projects," NDOR Director Kyle Schneeweis, said. "The meetings coming up in July are an opportunity for people from across the state to come out and see the progress we've made in analyzing projects and to share their feedback. Including more stakeholder input is a key component to our new project prioritization process and we look forward to hearing from everyone as we continue our efforts to Grow Nebraska."

The regional meetings will be held:

**Beatrice | July 13, 2016**

9-11 AM  
Holiday Inn, 4005 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

**La Vista | July 13, 2016**

3-5 PM  
Embassy Suites, 12520 Westport Pkwy.

**Norfolk | July 14, 2016**

9-11 AM  
Lifelong Learning Center, 701 E Benjamin Ave

**Grand Island | July 14, 2016**

3-5 PM  
Bosselman Conf. Ctr, 700 E Stolley Park Rd.

**North Platte | July 15, 2016**

9-11 AM  
Quality Inn & Suites, 2102 S. Jeffers St.

**McCook | July 15, 2016**

2-4 PM  
Community Hospital, 1301 E. H St.

**Valentine | July 18, 2016**

3-5 PM  
Niobrara Lodge, 803 East Highway #20

**Gering | July 19, 2016**

9-11 AM  
Gering Civic Center, 1050 M St.

#MORE#

After the July meetings, NDOR staff will begin the process of selecting the next round of capital improvement projects, taking into account the results of this new prioritization process as well as things like public support, geographic inclusion, corridor completion and opportunities for supplemental funding. NDOR plans to announce the projects this fall.

Information about the upcoming meetings is available at:

[www.roads.nebraska.gov/projects/grow-ne/](http://www.roads.nebraska.gov/projects/grow-ne/).

These increased outreach efforts are being applauded across the state, including from NDOR's Innovation Task Force, which held its third meeting last week. The group continues to focus on ways the public and private sectors can work together, explore innovative approaches and opportunities to advance transportation, and further examine how transportation investments can help grow Nebraska.

At last week's meeting, Task Force members discussed the concept of practical design, which could provide NDOR engineers flexibility in addressing transportation issues and the ability to tailor solutions that may not always meet the state's minimum design standards. Task Force members supported the idea of NDOR utilizing practical design. More conversations will be held in regards to how NDOR would implement it internally and externally.

NDOR Engineer, Brandie Neemann provided an update on the project prioritization process, sharing that NDOR is currently analyzing economic performance for more than 200 candidate project options based on stakeholder feedback from January. Preliminary results of the project prioritization process will be presented at the July stakeholder meetings.

The Innovation Task Force will meet again this fall.

#NDOR#

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